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Of all Mr. Brimmer's public services, if we are to make the invidious task of selection, the highest place may be given to his work in the Art Museum. Perhaps other men could have filled his place in other institutions equally well; in this he was without a possible rival. By disposition and training alike, he was fitted to be a perfect judge and patron of fine art; and if Boston is ever to keep her head above the overwhelming gulf of pretension and mediocrity that is pouring over the country in matters of art, she will owe her salvation to him more than to any single man. This work elicited from him other work of exquisite power, for which his adaptation had hardly been suspected. He delivered one or two addresses on the importance of the fine arts, which were not merely sound, elegant, and manly, but rose in more than one passage to thrilling and convincing eloquence of a kind rare indeed in these days.

This Academy, like the community, was the better for his membership, and his place will long be unsupplied.

1896

WILLIAM EVERETT.

HENRY WHEATLAND.

HENRY WHEATLAND was elected a Fellow of the Academy in 1845. He was born in Salem, January 11, 1812, and died there, February 27, 1893. His father was Richard Wheatland, born in Wareham, Dorset County, England, in 1762, who came to America in 1783. For several years he sailed from the port of Salem as commander of vessels in the India trade. In 1801 he retired from the sea and became one of the prosperous India merchants who helped to make the fame of the old town in the palmy days of its commerce. In 1796 Captain Wheatland was married to his second wife; and Henry was the sixth and youngest child of this marriage. As a boy he was of a delicate constitution, and, being naturally disposed to study, his parents had him fitted for college in the Salem schools. At the age of sixteen he entered Harvard, and was graduated in the class of 1832. His taste for natural history was evidently formed in boyhood, for we find that in the last year of his college course he was active in the formation of "The Harvard Linnean," of which college society he was the Secretary. The Constitution of this society, as he wrote it, is among his papers. This was probably the immediate precursor of the present Harvard Natural History Society, which was formed in 1837. On leaving college he returned to Salem and became an active worker in the Essex County Natural History Society and the Essex Historical Society.

In order to carry on his scientific studies he followed the course which seemed at that time almost essential to a student of natural history; he entered the Harvard Medical School, attending lectures in Boston in the winter and studying with Dr. Abel L. Pierson in Salem during the remainder of the year. In 1837 he received the degree of M. D. That it was not his intention to practise medicine, unless forced by circumstances to earn a living in that way, I know from frequent conversations with him and from his advice to me, when, aroused by Agassiz' visit to Salem, in 1856, I wished to accept the offer made to me to become his student. At that time Dr. Wheatland said, "You can go to Cambridge and study under Agassiz, Wyman, and Gray, and prepare yourself to enter the Medical School and become a doctor, as I did; then you can get your living in that way, if you have to, and study natural history too. That is the way most naturalists have done." In my early days, and still more in his, to follow natural history as a profession and a means of livelihood was hardly to be considered. It is evident that Dr. Wheatland gave as much attention to the comparative anatomy of animals as he did to the special anatomy of man, for during this time he prepared many skulls and skeletons for the collection of the Essex County Natural History Society, which, with others prepared at a later time, are still preserved in the Peabody Academy of Science in Salem.

The Doctor was always filled with a quiet enthusiasm for his work, never demonstrative, and even painfully reserved in his manner in public; only those who knew him best and were by their work closely associated with him found out his true nature, and realized how much he accomplished in his quiet, persistent way. Many a time I have seen the face of this reserved and quiet man beam with delight on obtaining some skull new to the collection, or when bringing up in his little dredge a seaweed or shell new to him. Often when in a dory dredging off the shore of Winter Island, Marblehead, Swampscott, or Manchester, his favorite localities for a half-day's outing, I have seen him as enthusiastic and happy over the contents of the little dredge as any naturalist of to-day could be on seeing for the first time the animals brought up from great depths by the modern appliances. I think it can be safely claimed for Dr. Wheatland, that he was the first to dredge in our New England waters, and I believe he was the first naturalist in America to adopt this means of collecting animals and plants living on the ocean bottom at moderate depths.

It was during the most active time of his natural history days that the Geological, Botanical, and Zoölogical Survey of the State was car-

ried on, and the Doctor contributed his full share in specimens and observations during his constant association with Emerson, Storer, Gould, Harris, and others; while Stimpson of a later date always acknowledged that he took his first lessons in dredging of Dr. Wheatland. To Agassiz he sent many specimens when the latter began to make his famous Museum at Cambridge; and with many conchologists abroad he carried on active exchanges, which added much to the early importance of the natural history collections in Salem. For years after I became intimately associated with him, in my boyhood, in the work of the Essex Institute, the Doctor continued his preparation of skulls of such mammals as he could obtain, many heads being brought home to him from foreign countries by Salem sea captains. These heads the Doctor soaked in tubs of water kept in the yard at his home, and bleached on shelves he prepared for the purpose on the roof of the barn. He daily watched and worked over these specimens for hours at a time, and finally placed them clean and white in the cases in the Institute. In those days every collector was obliged to prepare his own specimens; and if a rare fish or reptile came to the Society and there was no money for the purchase of alcohol, which was generally the case, the Doctor would prepare the skin and "mount" the specimen. It was his hands that prepared, over sixty years ago, the large specimen of horse-mackerel which still hangs upon the walls of the Peabody Academy of Science, and the enormous lobster, the wonder of the present day, which is treasured by the Academy.

It was the Doctor's practice of saving in some way every important specimen which he secured that made the series of "stuffed" turtles and their prepared shells and skeletons of such importance as to call Agassiz to Salem. On this occasion I was first brought in contact with the great naturalist, which event changed the whole course of my life; and it was thus through the training of Doctor Wheatland that I entered upon my career of scientific pursuits. In acknowledging him, my life-long friend, as my first instructor in science, I but give credit due to one who helped many others in a similar manner, — one whose friendship was always true and lasting, and whose usefulness and influence in the community were widespread.

While Dr. Wheatland was a true naturalist and did much to encourage the study in others, and unquestionably aided to a considerable extent the impetus given to its study in Salem, he became in later years equally interested in local historical and genealogical researches. As younger men gradually took up his natural history work, he turned his attention wholly to historical matters and his brain became a

wonderful treasure-house of genealogy and local history. While he published but little, he was ever helping others to prepare papers. Many were the hours and days he gave to rendering such assistance, and to making critical revisions of manuscripts submitted to him. It was in such work that his kindly nature was tested to the utmost, but never did he refuse to give to others for use or publication the results that he had worked long and diligently to secure. I have often heard him remark, "It makes no difference who publishes or gets credit for a fact that I have found, so long as it is made known to the world, or a mistake is corrected."

The life work of such a man as Henry Wheatland would naturally culminate in some important result to the community in which he lived, and the result of his life work can be best expressed by the words *The Essex Institute*. This important and remarkable institution is his memorial. Henry Wheatland is rightfully the acknowledged founder of the Essex Institute. It was through his efforts that in 1848 two societies were brought together which for a number of years had their home and principal membership in Salem, — the Essex Historical Society and the Essex Institute. To the subjects already fostered by these societies was added the encouragement of art and horticulture. The formation of a library was also included in the new organization, and plans were made for the publication of the Proceedings of the Institute and of scientific and historical papers.

Of this Institute Dr. Wheatland was the Secretary and sustaining power, giving of his moderate competence to its needs, and working day and night for its advancement, without compensation or thought of reward except in the successful growth of the institution and the acknowledgment of its usefulness by the community. From the small beginnings of nearly half a century ago, the Institute has grown as a sturdy tree of knowledge. It now has a considerable membership of devoted workers, who appreciate what has come to them and realize its usefulness and influence in the community. It has a home of its own and considerable invested property, which insure its perpetuity. It is a power for education and culture, and for all that calls forth the higher aspirations of man. It has set an example which has been followed in many places, and it has added to the sum of human knowledge by its numerous publications. Such has been the result of the life and labors of Henry Wheatland, — that gentle persistent worker whose aim was ever to help others in their researches; to save from destruction for the use of the future student the manuscripts he would require in his studies; to furnish to the people the ready means of obtaining a knowl-

edge of the natural history of the region by forming a perfect collection of the rocks, minerals, plants, and animals of Essex County; to practically encourage the cultivation of fruits, flowers, and vegetables; to form a scientific and historical library for the benefit of all who wished to study; to foster research and to aid in the diffusion of knowledge. All this Doctor Wheatland lived to see carried forward far beyond his expectations. He died content with his work; and he has left a priceless legacy to the city of his birth. With his death the last of the old school of naturalists has passed away. New methods and new theories have made rapid advances, and a second generation, after his active working days, has entered the ever-widening field of scientific research, until now the times are changed, and instead of its being necessary to become a doctor of medicine in order to be a naturalist, a physician must be something of a naturalist in order to hold his position in the medical profession.

1896.

F. W. PUTNAM.*

ASSOCIATE FELLOWS.

JAMES EDWARD OLIVER.

JAMES EDWARD OLIVER, who died on March 27, 1895, in the sixty-sixth year of his age, was born in Portland, Maine, July 27, 1829, of Quaker parentage. The family subsequently removed to Lynn, Massachusetts, and there young Oliver fitted for college at the Lynn Academy. He entered Harvard as a Sophomore, graduated in 1849, and was the class poet.

One of his classmates writes of him that "he was a modest, diffident, retiring, self-absorbed person in college, doing work not to be ashamed of in other branches, but achieving distinction only in mathematics."

* In these brief reminiscences of the career of Dr. Wheatland, and of the remarkable influence he exerted on the life of many young men and women, as well as upon the community in which he lived, I have not attempted a sketch of his life, nor have I alluded to many events of special interest. Some of these, and a list of the important offices he held, the societies that conferred membership upon him, and the titles of his publications, are to be found in the pamphlet published by the Essex Institute, containing an account of the meeting of the Essex Institute held on April 17, 1893, "in memory of its late President"; also in the Memoir by William P. Upham, printed in the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, 1895; and in memorials of various other societies.